A

COLLECTION

Of the Several

PETITIONS

OF THE

Counties, Boroughs, &c.

Presented to the

HOUSE of COMMONS,

Complaining of the Great Miseries the Nation labours under, by the Great Decay of TRADE, MANUFACTUURES and PUBLICK CREDIT, Occasion'd by the Mismanagements of the Late DIRECTORS of the *SOUTH-SEA COMPANY*, their Aiders, Abettors, and Confederates, &c.

LONDON:

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A Collection of the ſeveral Petitions of the Counties, Boroughs, &c. preſented to the Houſe of Commons, complaining of the great Miſeries the Nation labours under by the great Decay of Trade, Manufactures, and Publick Credit, occaſion'd by the Miſmanagements of the late Directors of the South-Sea Company, their Aiders, Abettors, and Confederates. &c.

To the Honourable the Commons of *Great-Britain* in Parliament aſſembled.

The Humble Petition of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons of the City of London, *in Common Council aſſembled.*

SHEWETH,

THAT your Petitioners think it their Duty moſt humbly to repreſent to this Honourable Houſe the preſent State of the City of *London*, ſo conſiderable a Part of the Kingdom, now fill'd with numberleſs Objects of Grief and Compaſſion, the ſad Effects of the Miſmanagements, Avarice, and fatal Contrivances of the late Directors of the South-Sea Company, their Aiders, Abetters and Confederates, in the Deſtruction of their Country.

Nor is it the Caſe of this Great City alone your Petitioners lament, but the General Decay of Trade, Manufactures, and of Publick Credit, whereof this Honourable Houſe have been always ſo extreamly tender; as alſo of the Honour of the Britiſh Name and Nation.

Your Petitioners beg Leave to return their moſt humble Thanks to this Honourable Houſe for the great Pains they

have taken to relieve the unhappy Sufferers, by compelling the Offenders to make Reſtitution; as likewiſe for their continued Application to lay open the whole Scene of Guilt, notwithſtanding the induſtrious Artifices of ſuch Sharers in the common Plunder, as have endeavour'd to obſtruct the Detection of Fraud and Corruption. And your Petitioners doubt not, but the ſame Fortitude, Impartiality, and Publick Spirit, wherewith this Honourable Houſe have hitherto acted, will ſtill animate them in the Purſuit of thoſe truly Great and Noble Ends.

We are too ſenſible of the Load of the Publick Debts, not to wiſh that all proper Methods may be taken to leſſen Them: And it is an infinite Concern to us, that the Payment of a great Sum towards them (which was expected from the late Scheme) is now rendered extremely difficult, if not impracticable; and yet is a Clond hanging over the Heads of the preſent unfortunate Proprietors of the South-Sea Company, and a great Damp to Publick Credit. We will not preſume to mention in what Manner Relief may be given in this arduous Affair, but moſt humbly ſubmit it to the Conſideration of this Honourable Houſe.

Your Petitioners therefore moſt humbly pray this Honourable Houſe will be pleas'd to take ſuch further Meaſures as They, in their great Wiſdom, ſhall judge proper, that Trade may flouriſh, publick Credit be reſtored, and Juſtice done to an Injured People.

And your Petitioners ſhall pray, &c.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great-Britain in Parliament aſſembled.

The humble Petition of the Chief Burgeſſes and Burgeſſes, Aſſiſtants, Grand-Jury, and many of the Inhabitants of the City and Liberty of Weſtminſter; *on the Behalf of themſelves and the reſt of the Inhabitants of that ſaid City and Liberty.*

SHEWETH,

THAT your Petitioners are deeply affected with the Calamity brought upon the Inhabitants of this City and upon the Nation in general, by the wicked Execution of the late South-Sea Scheme, and in a particular manner they think it their Duty to repreſent to this Honourable Houſe

Houſe, the great Oppreſſion which the Subſcribing Proprietors of the Publick, and eſpecially the Redeemable Debts, now lie under, to the ruin of very great Numbers of the Trading Inhabitants of this City.

Your Petitioners return their moſt humble Thanks to this Honourable Houſe, for the Progreſs hitherto made, in Diſcovering and Puniſhing the Authors of this General Diſtreſs, notwithſtanding the Artifices which have been uſed to prevent and Obſtruct the ſame.

And your Petitioners moſt humbly pray, that this Honourable Houſe will proceed with the ſame true *Britiſh* Zeal and Spirit, which hath hitherto appear'd, until effectual Juſtice be done to an injur'd Nation, and Reparation made to the unhappy Sufferers, in the moſt equitable Manner, to the reſtoring of publick Credit, and the Trade of this Kingdom.

And your Petitioners ſhall pray, &c.

To the Honourable the Commons of *Great-Britain* in Parliament aſſembled.

The humble Petition of the Mayor Bayliffs and Burgeſſes of the Borough of Leiceſter.

SHEWETH,

THAT tho' by indulgent Providence your Petitioners are clear of South-Sea Projects, and neither tainted with the Guilt of contriving, nor hurt by giving Credit to the late curſed Impoſtures; yet we are Sharers in the National Calamity, which involves all, the wicked Authors only excepted; whoſe ſucceſsful Crimes have rais'd them above the Reach of ordinary Juſtice, and left them nothing to fear or us to hope, but from the Legiſlative Power. With utmoſt Reſignation therefore to the Juſtice and Wiſdom of this Honourable Houſe, our moſt deplorable State and Condition is repreſented.

No ſooner had the South-Sea Directors, and the vile Emiſſaries they detatch'd over the Kingdom, (to propagate Lies and Forgeries) ſo impoſed upon the honeſt credulous People, as to draw all their ready Money and Treaſure into their infamous Hands, but we ſaw Trade inſtantly ſtruck dead, our Manufactures diſregarded, our combed Wool (once the Staple and Glory of our induſtrious Corporation) lie neglected in our Work-Houſes, our Poor encreaſing for want of

Employment; many who chearfully paid Taxes towards ſupporting our happy Government reduc'd by want of Trade to a miſerable Exemption from them.

And as if theſe did not amount to a ſufficient Meaſure of Evils, we are alarm'd with yet more to come, and threatned that the ſole Relief to an almoſt deſpairing People, the ſingle Recompence for all their Sufferings, ſhall be attempted to be wreſted from them, viz. the Seven Millions due by Contract from the South-Sea Company towards Payment of publick Debts, and relaxing part of thoſe Taxes which the People have long born, and now weaken'd and impoveriſh'd by South-Sea Schemes are unable to ſuſtain, ſhall be ſacrificed to that Company, to raiſe high again their fatal Credit, revive Stock Jobbing, and pour out the laſt Drops of the Nation's Blood to be lick'd up by Cannibals of Change-Alley.

Such a Project (were it poſſible it could ſucceed) for confirming perpetual Debts, Mortgages and Taxes, upon a People deploring already their hard Fate under undeſerved Miſeries, would give (we humbly apprehend) an incurable Wound to Trade and National Credit, heighten their Griefs into Deſpair, ſhock their ſteady Affections to this good Government, and animate its Enemies to farther Attempts.

But under the Protection of ſo Juſt and Wiſe a Parliament, the Scourge of wicked Avarice, we have nothing to fear from ſuch wild deſtructive Schemes, and nothing to Petition for, but that this Honourable Houſe would proceed with the Spirit and Juſtice they have begun, to diſappoint every miſchievous Enterprize and avaricious Deſign, and bring to condign Puniſhment all who ſhall be found conſpiring to enrich themſelves by the undoing of their Country.

So ſhall Publick Faith and Credit be re-eſtabliſh'd on their Foundations, Juſtice and ſtrict Obſervance of Contracts; honeſt Trade, releaſed from heavy Impoſitions, which have ſo long depreſs'd it, raiſe its Head, and contend with Succeſs againſt its Knaviſh, Rival Stock-Jobbing, Poverty, and with it Diſcontent vaniſh; our Gracious Sovereign King *George* Reign over an once more proſperous and happy People, as able as willing by large Supplies to promote both his Majeſty's Glory and Safety.

And your Petitioners ſhall Pray, &c.

To

To the Honourable the Commons of *Great-Britain*, in Parliament aſſembled.

The humble Petition of the Juſtices of the Peace, Grand-Jury, Gentlemen, and Freeholders, aſſembled at the Quarter-Seſſions of the Peace holden the 17th of April 1721, *for the County of* Hertford:

SHEWETH,

THAT your Petitioners being truly ſenſible of their Happineſs under the beſt of Conſtitutions, beg Leave (among other of their Fellow-Subjects) to lay before this Honourable Houſe the great Miſeries they labour under by the Decay of Trade, Manufactures, and Publick Credit.

We are amazed to think to what an extravagant Heighth the late Directors of the South-Sea Company, their Aiders and Confederates, had fatally wrought up the Credit of their Stock by their wicked Arts and Deluſions, to the Injury of the Publick, as if purpoſely deſigned to deſtroy their Country, and, under a pretended Zeal to his Majeſty and his Family, to lay ſuch a Foundation of Prejudice, by the Poverty of the People, as ſhould even ſtagger thoſe whoſe Loyalty has been ever moſt conſpicuous.

Your Petitioners having a juſt Senſe of the earneſt Endeavours of this Honourable Houſe to relieve the unhappy Sufferers thereby, are perſuaded that the ſubtle Contrivance of thoſe who juſtly dread the Diſcovery of their Guilt, will at length be defeated by the Courage and Reſolution of this Honourable Houſe; and that the Secret Springs of ſuch who concurred with the Directors in thoſe Deſigns will be made appear, and laid before the whole World, to their utter Confuſion.

Your Petitioners are perſuaded, from the Firmneſs and Vigour of this Honourable Houſe, that no Difficulties will obſtruct the Glorious Step they are purſuing, to bring to Puniſhment the Authors of all this Miſery, let the Offenders be ever ſo diſtinguiſhed by the Greatneſs of their Stations; and as their Crimes are of the blackeſt Dye, (even a determined Reſolution to deſtroy this once moſt flouriſhing Kingdom) ſo we hope, from the juſtice of this Honourable Houſe, ſuch Examples will be made, as ſhall free us from the Terror of ſuch Apprehenſions for the future.

We are too freely affected with the great Debt the Nation labours under, not heartily to wiſh all proper Methods were found out to leſſen the ſame: But as the late Scheme of the South Sea Company (upon which our Hopes were built for an immediate Relief of a conſiderable Sum) has proved Abortive, by the Avarice of the late Managers thereof, ſo we fear the Conſequence of inſiſting upon that Contract with the South-Sea Company, towards the Diſcharging of the Publick Debts, would be the Loſs of the little Credit that remains.

Your Petitioners, in full Confidence of the Wiſdom of this Honourable Houſe, moſt humbly pray, that no Artifices whatſoever may be able to divert you from thoſe juſt Meaſures which you are taking to reſtore Publick Credit, make Trade flouriſh, and do Juſtice to a moſt injured Nation.

And your Petitioners ſhall ever Pray, &c.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great-Britain in Parliament aſſembled.

The Petition of the Mayor, Aldermen, Recorder, Juſtices of the Peace, Gentlemen, and principal Inhabitants of the Borough of St. Alban in the County of Hertford.

SHEWETH,

THAT we cannot without the deepeſt Concern, lay before this Honourable Houſe the many and great Calamities brought upon this whole Kingdom, by the ill Management, treacherous Conduct, and ſordid Practices of the late South-Sea Directors; To ſee daily the Miſeries, and to hear the lamentable Complaints and pitiful Cries of Thouſands of our Countrymen, and fellow Sufferers, cannot but ſtrike Compaſſion in the moſt obdurate Hearts; eſpecially when ſuch numberleſs Objects owe their preſent Diſtreſs, to the boundleſs Avarice of griping Sycophants, and knaviſh Invaders, who by their falſe Cunning have betray'd an unwary People, into Poverty, Ruin, and Deſtruction, contrary to the Truſt with them repos'd.

The Pains which this Honourable Houſe have already taken, in detecting the vile and wicked Practices of theſe Profligate Wretches, claim our humbleſt Thanks, not doubting but you will glorioufly purſue and puniſh, what you have ſo happily begun, and hitherto proſperouſly carry'd on.

We

We humbly pray, that the ſaid South Sea Directors, together with their Abettors and Confederates, may be brought to condign Puniſhment; that Juſtice may be done, and Reparation made to an injur'd and abus'd Nation.

And your Petitioners ſhall Pray, &c.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great-Britain in Parliament Aſſembled.

The Humble Petition of the Grand Jury, Freeholders and others, met at the Quarter Seſſions, held for the County of Somerſet the 18th day of April, in the Seventh Year of his preſent Majeſty's Reign, on behalf of themſelves, and many Thouſands Traders and Inhabitants of the ſame County.

SHEWETH,

THAT your Petitioners Oppreſt with the Univerſal Calamity brought upon the Nation in General, by the Miſmanagement, Avarice and fatal Contrivances of the late Directors of the South-Sea Company, their Aiders, Abettors and Confederates, think themſelves obliged to repreſent to this Honourable Houſe the preſent Condition of this once flouriſhing County.

Such is the Decay of our Trade, that our Woollen Manufactures the Riches and Support of the Kingdom, but of this County in particular, are in a manner intirely laid down, and many Subſtantial and Wealthy Families are reduc'd to Difficulties by Contributing to the Support of the Neceſſities of the Numberleſs Poor, who were wont to Earn a Comfortable Subſiſtance by their Labour and from the ſeveral Imployments of the Clothing Trade.

Your Petitioners obſerve with the utmoſt Thankfulneſs, the Juſtice of this Honourable Houſe in the vigorous and proper ſteps they have taken towards the Puniſhment of thoſe who have already appeared to be Actors in or partakers of this great Scene of Iniquity, and your Petitioners doubt not but the ſame Reſentment and Reward will overtake ſuch as ſhall be found to endeavour by Artifice to Screne any of thoſe great Offenders, from that Juſtice the Crime deſerves and the People demand.

We are too ſenſible of the great Load of the publick Debts which hings as a Cloud over the publick Intereſt and Trade of this Nation, not to be extremely ſollicitous that all proper Methods ſhould be taken to leſſen them, wherefore your Pe-

titioners are filled with Joy to ſee that no Attempt has been made out of a Compaſſion to any private or particular Body of Men, to remit the Payment of the Sums ſtipulated by the late Act, and appropriated to the Diſcharge of ſo great a Part of the Publick Burthen.

Your Petitioners doubt not but the ſame Fortitude and Publick Spirit, wherewith this Honourable Houſe has hitherto acted, will ſtill animate them in thoſe other arduous Affairs which may come before them; and that none of thoſe Benefits and Securities in Trade, which remain to us (being the very Life of the Nation) ſhall be given up or Proſtrated to any private Intereſt or Advantage, but that ſuch farther advantages ſhall be obtained for us as are naturally to be expected from thoſe heavy Taxes we have continually paid, and from the Great Influence which the Succeſs of his Majeſty's Arms, and the Wiſdom of his Councils, have Intituled this Nation to, in the Affairs of Europe.

Your Petitioners therefore moſt humbly pray this Honourable Houſe will be pleaſed to take ſuch Meaſures as they in their great Wiſdom ſhall judge proper, that Trade may flouriſh, Publick Credit be reſtored, and Juſtice done to an Injured People,

And your Petitioners ſhall pray &c.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain in Parliament Aſſembled.

The humble Petition of the Juſtices of the Peace, Grand-Jury, Clergy, Gentlemen, and Freeholders of the County of Kent, *at the General Quarter-Seſſions of the Peace, holden at Maidſtone, in, and for the ſaid County of Kent; on Tueſday the Eighteenth Day of April, in the 7th Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord GEORGE, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith,* &c.

SHEWETH,

THAT the County of Kent, lately one of the Richeſt and moſt Flouriſhing in the Kingdom, is at preſent, by the execrable Fraud of the late Wicked South-Sea Directors, and their more Wicked Accomplices, reduced to a moſt unhappy Condition, which your Petitioners beg leave to Repreſent to this Honourable Houſe, which hath always been ready to hear the Voice of an Injur'd People, and fully avenge them of their Enemies.

It

It is with the utmoſt Indignation, that we ſee this Honourable Houſe ſtruggling with unexpected Oppoſition; and labouring under unaccountable Difficulties; and we can never ſufficiently expreſs our Reſentment, when we behold the King of Great-Britain, in vain demanding the Perſon of a Man, inconſiderable for every Thing except his Crimes, who as he was, no doubt, prevail'd on to fly his Country, to obſtruct Juſtice upon Greater Offenders, is ſtill deny'd on Pretences too weak to give ſatisfaction to ſo wiſe a Prince and ſo diſcerning a People.

We ſhould be very much wanting in Gratitude to this Honourable Houſe, if we had not the deepeſt Senſe of the Endeavours they have uſed to relieve us under our preſent Diſtreſs; Happy! if thoſe endeavours had not been in ſome meaſure, obſtructed by the Contrivance of thoſe Miſcreants, who as they have Art enough to cover their Iniquity, flatter themſelves, that they have Power ſufficient to be Skreen'd from Juſtice. But we doubt not, this Honourable Houſe, the conſtant Guardian of our Rights, will think it becoming their Great Wiſdom to ſhew thoſe Conſpirators their Miſtake who vainly imagin, that by thus Plundering their Fellow-Subjects, They have ſo far weakned them, as to render their very Reſentments impotent and ineffectual.

The City of London have ſo fully expreſs'd our Senſe of the Load of Publick Debts, and of the Manner of being eaſed therefrom, that to ſay more, would be a vain and uſeleſs Repetition,

And therefore,

For our ſpeedy and effectual Relief (entirely depending on your wiſe and juſt Deliberations.)

Your Humble Petitioners ſhall ever Pray.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great-Britain in Parliament aſſembled.

The humble Petition of the Mayor, Jurates, and Common-Council of the King's Town of Maidſtone, in the County of Kent,

SHEWETH,

THAT your Petitioners are under a Neceſſity of begging Leave, with the deepeſt Concern, to repreſent to this Honourable Houſe their preſent miſerable Condition from the great Decay of their Trade in common with the reſt

of this Kingdom; by the languiſhing State of Publick Credit, occaſion'd by the Infamous Practices of the late South-Sea Directors, the more fatal as they were the artful Contrivance of them, jointly with Perſons in higher Stations, to plunder the Nation, and enrich themſelves by the Ruin of their Fellow-Subjects; by which Means ſuch a Stop hath been put to the Circulation of Money, that at this time eſpecially, when the Duty of Hops (the great Commodity of theſe Parts) is call'd for the Payment of it, it will be attended with ſo much Difficulty and Hardſhip, that many Families thereby will be render'd deſtitute of, almoſt, a neceſſary Subſiſtence.

Your Petitioners cannot but with Aſtoniſhment and Deteſtation, ſee the Indolence of ſome at the impending Danger of their Country, and at the ſame time, with infinite Satisfaction, obſerve the great Care you have been pleas'd to take, in ſummoning up all your Members at this dangerous Juncture; and as our Relief depends intirely upon the wiſe and juſt Deliberations of this Honourable Houſe, ſo we are in Duty bound to return our moſt humble Thanks for their having already exerted themſelves, in endeavouring to bring to Juſtice the more open and declar'd Enemies of their Country: And your Petitioners doubt not but the ſame Noble Spirit and Publick Zeal will animate you for the further detecting and proſecuting all Perſons, in whatever Station they may be plac'd, who by their deſtructive Counſels, fatal Aid, and inſatiable Avarice, have ſo greatly impoveriſh'd this Diſtreſſed Nation.

We are perfectly ſenſible of the Load of Publick Debts, and truly thankful for your Endeavours to disburthen us therefrom; but at ths ſame Time think it our Duty to declare, that we cannot conceive we have any Reaſon to expect to be eas'd by the Calamity of our Fellow-Subjects; But herein your Petitioners moſt humbly ſubmit themſelves to your great Wiſdom. And Pray,

That this Honourable Houſe will take ſuch further Meaſures, as will be effectual for your Petitioners Relief, and may render this, once more, a Happy and Flouriſhing Kingdom at Home; and Great and Conſiderable Abroad.

And your Petitioners ſhall, &c.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament Aſſembled.

The Humble Petition of the Juſtices of the Peace, Gentlemen of the Grand Jury, and other Gentlemen, aſſembled at the General Quarter Seſſions of the Peace, and Goal Delivery, held for the Liberty of St. Alban, in the County of Hertford, the 20th of April 1721.

SHEWETH,

THAT the great decay of Trade and Credit, and the unſpeakable Deſolation of their Country, by the late South Sea Directors, their Agents, and Abettors, will not ſuffer them to be ſilent, whilſt they ſee the deteſtable Authors of their Miſery, remain unpuniſhed, and Thouſands of honeſt Families, daily overwhelm'd with Ruin; It is therefore with Joy and Thankfulneſs they behold the Indefatigable Labour, Care, and Pains of the Honourable Houſe of Commons, to reſtore Credit, relieve the unhappy Sufferers, and to take Vengeance upon the Betrayers and Plunderers of their Country, notwithſtanding all the ſecret and open Oppoſition of thoſe who would skreen them from Juſtice.

They doubt not, but with redoubled Zeal, this Honourable Houſe will demand the Perſon of Mr. Knight, and thoroughly Examine, and make known the whole Myſtery of Iniquity, and that all Delinquents, of what Name, Birth, or Quality ſoever ſhall be detected, expoſed, and compelled to make Reſtitution; nor ſhall we ever believe, that the States of Brabant (who durſt not reclaim, when there apprehended, our late Receiver General who fled from Juſtice) will ever preſume to detain any Perſon demanded by the King and Parliament of Great Britain.

We alſo beg leave humbly to ſubmit it to your great Wiſdom, in what manner to relieve a poor unhappy People, from a Sum, which the late Directors (flush'd with Villany, eager upon prey, and ſeeking whom they might devour) Contracted to give: the Payment of which we humbly apprehend to be as impracticable as the Scheme for which it was given.

The Nation hath been greatly wrong'd, and demands ſpeedy and exemplary Juſtice; and for that, as well as other Purpoſes, have their Eyes fixed upon you, their Repreſentatives

tives, that you will continue and increaſe your Zeal for your injured Country, that a Brave, and lately a Wealthy People, may not become deſpicable to the whole Earth. Thus will you continue glorioufly to Execute the Truſt repoſed in you, and the Generations to come ſhall call you Bleſſed; *And your Petitioners, as in Duty bound, ſhall ever Pray, &c.*

To the Honourable the Commons of Great-Britain in Parliament aſſembled.

The Humble Petition of the Mayor and Burgeſſes of the Town of Nottingham in Common Council aſſembled.

SHEWETH,

THAT your Petitioners think themſelves obliged to lay before this Honourable Houſe the deep Senſe they have of the preſent Calamities brought upon the Nation, through the boundleſs Ambition and Avarice of the late South-Sea Directors, their Confederates and Aſſiſtants; who, by a continued Series of unparallell'd Contrivances and Practices, have involv'd their Native Country in Ruin and Deſtruction.

That this Ancient Corporation, long Famous for the Manufacturing of Engliſh Wool, wherewith not only our own but Foreign Markets were ſupplied, do now feel the fatal Effects of their Miſmanagement in the Loſſes they have ſuſtain'd, in the Decay of their Trade and Publick Credit.

That your Petitioners do, with all imaginable Gratitude, humbly acknowledge the ardent Zeal this Honourable Houſe have manifeſted, by an impartial Enquiry into this Myſtery of Iniquity, and inceſſant Endeavours for the Relief of oppreſs'd Sufferers, notwithſtanding all the Artifices made uſe of to obſtruct their Procedure, for the obtaining thoſe juſt and noble Ends deſign'd thereby.

That Divine Providence hath removed ſome of the Actors in this black Tragedy, and Sharers of the Spoils of their Fellow Subjects, beyond the Reach of Human Power; but their Eſtates are left behind, and your Petitioners do, with great Satisfaction, confide in the Juſtice and Wiſdom of this Honourable Houſe, to compleat the Great Work, they have with ſo much Honour, Courage and Impartiality, begun and purſued, in order to compel notorious Criminals to make a Reſtitution for the Relief of the preſent unhappy Proprietors of the South-Sea Company, as ample and extenſive as the

the many Inſtances of Diſcovery, and the Qualities of the Perſons concern'd will permit.

Your Petitioners therefore do, with the greateſt Deference and Submiſſion, pray the Conſideration of this Honourable Houſe with reſpect to that Part of the South-Sea Scheme which relates to the Publick Debts of the Nation, and other the Premiſſes, in order to revive our languiſhing Trade; to reſtore Publick Credit; to remove the Diſcontents; and as far as is practicable, ſilence the Complaints of an injur'd Nation, by ſuch Ways and Methods as they in their Great Wiſdom ſhall ſee meet.

And your Petitioners ſhall ever pray, &c.

To the Honourable the Commons of *Great-Britain* in Parliament aſſembled.

The Humble Petition of the Mayor, Sheriffs, Citizens, and Commonalties of the Ancient City of Lincoln.

SHEWETH,

THAT the General Calamity of this Nation, by the want of Trade, Loſs of Publick Credit, and the Scarcity of Money, attended with the Lamentable Complaints of a vaſt Number of ſuffering Perſons, occaſion'd by the fraudulent Practices of the late Directors and Managers of the South-Sea Company, obliges us, the Corporation of Lincoln, in Conjunction with other Bodies Corporate of this Kingdom, to lay before this Honourable Houſe the melancholly Concern we lye under, and how ſenſible we are of that notorious Scheme of Roguery and Deceit of a Body of Men join'd together in ſuch a pernicious Deſign, that had almoſt tended to the Ruin of this once flouriſhing Kingdom, which is not to be parallel'd in our ancient Hiſtories, and had it not been prevented by the vigilant Care and Inſpection of this Honourable Houſe, it muſt have ended in the Ruin and Poverty of the People of Great-Britain. And as we of this City, being in the middle of a Country noted for the great Product of Wooll, and of a conſiderable Trade formerly therein, ſo we are more immediately affected by its great Loſs in our Wooll Trade, which was the Grand Support of the Eſtates of the ſaid County. Wherefore, we the ſaid Corporation, do with all Humility, lay all theſe

Grievances before this Honourable Houſe, who only and properly are capable of Relieving the Suffering Subjects of this Realm, and as they have happily and ſucceſsfully undertaken the Diſcovery of the Secret and miſchievous Machinations of the South-Sea Company, ſo we may with reaſonable Aſſurance, believe that the Juſtice and Wiſdom of this Honourable Houſe will compleat the great and glorious Work, by making a thorough Inquiry into, and fully diſcovering all the Springs and Branches of theſe evil Practices and Cheats put upon the whole Nation, and take ſuch effectual Care to puniſh all Offenders, Aiders and Abettors, in grand and wicked Undertakings, and to give the Subjects of Great-Britain a Recompence and Satisfaction out of the Eſtates and Effects of all thoſe Perſons that were join'd in, or privy to, the Fraudulent Combination aforeſaid: And your Petitioners do ſubmit all the ſaid Matters to the wiſe Conſideration of this Honourable Houſe, and pray, that ſuch prudent Meaſures may in due Time be taken, as may effectually repair the Kingdoms Loſſes and Credit, whereby this Nation may again hold up its drooping Head, and with thankful Hearts and Voices acknowledge the great and wonderful Care and Relief that this Honourable Houſe has had and made for all the People of theſe united Kingdoms, which will perpetuate the glorious Remembrance thereof to future Ages.

And your Petitioners ſhall ever Pray, &c.

To the Honourable the Commons of *Great-Britain* in Parliament aſſembled.

The Humble Petition of the Bailiffs, Town-Clerk, Capital Burgeſſes, and other the Inhabitants of the ancient Town of Tamworth, in the Counties of Warwick and Stafford,

SHEWETH,

THAT your Petitioners beg Leave to repreſent the Diſtreſſed Condition of the Cloth Manufactures of this Place, reduced (by the Decay of Trade, the want of Vent for their Commodities, and of Employ for themſelves, the heavy Burthen of Taxes, and a Scarcity of Specie never known before) to Hardſhips from which they hoped that an honeſt Induſtry might have preſerved them, and to a Neceſſity of applying to this Honourable Houſe for Relief.

What have been the Cauſes of theſe Evils is more proper for

for the Enquiry of this Honourable Houſe, but there is one ſo notorious that we can't avoid complaining of the deſtructiveneſs and ſcandalous corrupt Management of the South-Sea Scheme, to the Ruin of the Publick, as well as private Credit, the Impoveriſhment of an infinite Number of Perſons, and the bringing down upon us the moſt extenſive Calamity that ever befel a Nation.

We have however ſome Comfort even in our Miſery, to ſee the Enquiry of this Honourable Houſe is engaged, for laying open that dark Scene of Iniquity, and cannot but hope that the ſame Publick Spirit and Love of their Country, which has begun this Enquiry, will carry it on to a full Diſcovery of the Source of all our Grievances, and to the taking exemplary Vengeance on all that are Sharers in the Guilt of it.

'Tis the Happineſs of our Conſtitution, that no Ones Greatneſs exempts his Conduct from the Inſpection of this Honourable Houſe, or can Skreen him from a Puniſhment he deſerves. And hence it is, that as Impunity gives a ſort of Sanction to Villany, we hope to ſee every Confederate in it feel the Stroke of that Impartial Juſtice, without which no Nation can ſubſiſt, nor ours expect to ſee an End of its Grievances.

We have been put in Expectation of ſeeing ſome Part of the Publick Debts paid off, and of having thoſe Taxes leſſen'd, which were hardly to be ſupported before the preſent Diſtreſs fell upon us: And we ſtill hope from the Wiſdom of this Honourable Houſe, that ſome Means may yet be found of eaſing us in this Reſpect, and from their Juſtice, that (for the Relief of any greedy Gainers in Stocks, whom an exorbitant Avarice tempted to Traffick with their Money in that Channel) thoſe ſhall not be burden'd with Taxes, who in the Way of a laudable and honeſt Induſtry have endeavour'd to ſubſiſt their Families, and do their Duty to their Country.

Your Petitioners therefore moſt humbly pray this Honourable Houſe, to take ſuch farther Meaſures as in their great Wiſdom they ſhall judge proper, for the Encouragement of Trade, for the Redreſs of all our Grievances, for preventing the like Corruption for the Future, for eaſing the Load of Taxes, and for doing the Nation Juſtice in every particular, and on every Invader of her Rights and Properties.

And your Petitioners ſhall Pray, &c.

Joſ. Allport, } Bailiffs.

To the Knights, Citizens, and Burgeſſes in Parliament Aſſembled;

The Petition of ſeveral of the Deputy-Lieutenants, Juſtices of the Peace, Gentlemen, and Freeholders, on Behalf of themſelves and others of the County of Leiceſter, *Humbly Sheweth,*

THAT as we can never enough magnifie the Juſtice of this Honourable Houſe, in deterring the Villany of a Set of Men who have ruin'd the Credit of their Country under the ſpecious Name of paying the publick Debts, ſo neither can we ſufficiently abhor the Impudence of ſome, who under Pretence of advancing publick Credit would prevent the Payment of thoſe Debts.

We cannot, without Violence to our juſt Sentiments of the Wiſdom of this Honourable Houſe, think that a County which has ſo chearfully contributed to leſſen the Burthen of National Taxes, ſhould (to advance the Views of ſome whoſe inſatiable Avarice incites them again to Meaſures deſtructive of their Country) be put under a Neceſſity of paying them over again; by transferring a Debt of Seven Millions from where it legally lies, nor that the pretty Metaphor of a Cloud hanging over the Heads of ſome private Perſons will ever prevail to blow it all o're the Nation. It's therefore our humble Petition that a juſt Zeal may continue to animate this Honourable Houſe, to apply publick Juſtice to publick Roguery, and make them and them alone Reſtore who have had their Share in the Plunder.

And your Petitioners ſhall ever Pray, &c.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great-Britain in Parliament Aſſembled.

The humble Petition of the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen, Burgeſſes, and principal Inhabitants of the Borough of Reading in the County of Berks,

SHEWETH,

THAT your Petitioners, moved by a juſt Senſe of the melancholly State of this Nation, and the Suffering of a credulous deluded People, cannot forbear expreſſing their Indignation and Reſentment againſt the Contrivers and Inſtruments of our preſent Misfortunes; who regardleſs of their Duty to their Country, have brought our Trade from a flouriſhing State to a languid expiring Condition; have

from

from Wealth and Plenty reduced numberleſs Families to Want and Poverty, and ſacrificed the Property of Thouſands to their own unlimited and mercileſs Avarice.

To ſee our national Credit, which hath always been eſteemed Sacred and Inviolable, and ſtood the Shock of all Times, had in ſo little Regard, and the Creditors thereof plundered, inſtead of being juſtly paid; to find a glorious Proſpect and Opportunity of leſſening our Publick Debts, which have been a long and heavy Weight on the true National Intereſt, fruſtrated and diſappointed by the ſelfiſh Views of ambitious Men, are Truths too clear not to be ſeen, and of too much Conſequence not to be complain'd of. Theſe and all out preſent Grievances your Petitioners humbly conceive are juſtly to be attributed to the treacherous and deſtructive Execution of the South-Sea Scheme; and that National Juſtice only will reſtore National Credit, and encourage the Induſtrious to attempt the reviving our decayed Trade.

Amidſt theſe ſad Views we have the Satisfaction to ſee this Honourable Houſe faithfully purſuing the real Intereſt and Honour of their Country, and with true publick Spirit and unmoved Integrity tracing theſe Delinquents thro' all the dark and intricate Mazes of Corruption and Iniquity; the Labour is great, the Difficulties many, and Oppoſition Powerful: But we aſſure our ſelves, the ſame Motives which animated this ſeaſonable and juſt Enquiry, will, whatever the Succeſs may be, make this Honourable Houſe perſevere therein; and that no Endeavours will be wanting as well to bring all Offenders and Betrayers of their Country to due Puniſhment, as to cenſure and diſcourage all thoſe who would fling a Veil over ſuch monſtrous Iniquities, to the Diſhonour of his Majeſty and the Nation, and to the increaſing the Murmurings and Diſcontents of an injur'd People.

Therefore your Petitioners moſt humbly pray, that this Honourable Houſe will conſider of proper Methods for relieving the Innocent Sufferers, reſtoring National Credit, incouraging Trade and Induſtry, bringing to exemplary Puniſhment all the Authors, Aiders, Accomplices, and Acceſſaries of our preſent Evils, and that thoſe who have ſhewn no Mercy, may receive none.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great-Britain in Parliament Aſſembled,

The humble Petition of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the ancient Borough of Haſlemere, in the County of Surry.

WE the Baliff, Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the ancient Borough of Haſlemere, in the County of Surry, beg leave to join with the reſt of our Countrymen, in laying our Grievances, ariſing from the Villanous Practices of the late Directors, and other Officers of the South-Sea Company, and their Abettors, before this Honourable Houſe, and to Petition for ſuch Redreſs as this Honourable Houſe ſhall be able, and in their great Wiſdom ſhall think fit to grant us; and withal, to render our moſt hearty Thanks for what hath been already done for that Purpoſe.

Such of us as are Traders, cannot but complain of the great decay of Trade, and all of us, in General, of the Scarcity of Money, without a briſker Circulation, of which the worſt of Conſequences muſt inevitably enſue.

We therefore moſt humbly beſeech this Honourable Houſe to proceed with all the Zeal and Reſolution imaginable, in detecting thoſe Traytors to our dear Country, and Plunderers of their Brethren, who have brought theſe Calamities upon us; and as their Wickedneſs and Impudence are not to be parallel'd by any thing to be met with in the Hiſtories of former Ages, ſo we hope this honourable Houſe will do their utmoſt to make them Examples to Poſterity, and ſuffer none, how Great and Powerful ſoever to eſcape without condign Puniſhment, and an indelible Mark of Infamy.

And that none, tho' apparently Guilty, may eſcape for want of poſitive, legal Evidence, we hope this Honourable Houſe will continue their Endeavours to bring over Mr. Knight, who, as we verily believe, was prevail'd upon to leave the Kingdom, to conceal other Men's Crimes, as well as to avoid the Puniſhments of his own.

In the mean time, we hope this Honourable Houſe will alſo take the deplorable Condition of Trade into their Conſideration, and do every thing that may entitle them to the immortal Honour of ſaving a Nation at its laſt Gaſp, from Ruin and Deſolation.

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In the laſt Place, we think our ſelves oblig'd to deſire this Honourable Houſe to except of our moſt hearty Acnowledgements of that indefatigable Induſtry, and that true old Engliſh Courage and Integrity wherewith they have hitherto endeavour'd to detect and puniſh thoſe Monſters of Pride, Covetouſneſs, and Inhumanity, againſt whom the Diſtractions and Tragical Deaths of ſome, the Loſſes of ſo many, and the Want and Poverty of almoſt all, do ſo loudly cry not only to this Honourable Houſe, but even to Heaven it ſelf, for the ſpeedieſt Redreſs, and the moſt exemplary Vengeance.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain in Parliament Aſſembled.

The humble Petition of the Juſtices of the Peace, and Principal Inhabitants of the Borough of Southwark.

SHEWETH,

THAT your Petitioners cannot but be ſenſible of the Miſery brought on this Nation, by the evil Intentions and worſe Practices of the late Directors of the South-Sea Company, their Accomplices, Aiders and Abettors, by which many Thouſands have been reduc'd to Miſery and Want.

And as the Care and Pains which the Commons of Great Britain have taken, to diſcover and bring to Juſtice the Promoters, Actors and Inventors of theſe pernicious Practices, cannot but be highly pleaſing to every Engliſh Man, and endear their Actions to Poſterity; ſo we doubt not but you will purſue the ſame, until a full Diſcovery be made of the guilty, and a reaſonable Satisfaction obtain'd for the oppr ſs'd.

We are ſenſible you have a laborious Work on your Hands; that requires the ableſt Heads and moſt diſintereſted Int-ntiors to compleat; yet we are not without Hopes, that by your vigilant Application you will, in a great Meaſure, find Ways to relieve the oppreſs'd, and we think thoſe who have not been Sufferers will not ſtand in any Need thereof.

As the Payment of the Seven Millions is now thought to be impracticable, we earneſtly wiſh the ſame may be remitted, and that the Proprietors of the Publick Debts, eſpecially of the redeemable Annuities, of which the Numbers are great and their Circumſtances deplorable, including

abundance

abundance of Widows, Orphans, and poor Servants of both Sexes, may not be added to the Number of the Miſerable; by which the Memory of the preſent Calamities will be handed down, and too ſeverely felt by Poſterity.

We ſubmit to your prudent Conſideration, whether the Reaſons laid before you, be ſufficient to convince this Honourable Houſe, that there have not been Artifices uſed to hinder the Delivery of a Subject of this Nation to Juſtice, whereby ſome of his Protectors and Fellow-Managers are skreen'd from the condign Puniſhment they deſerve.

May you go on with the ſame Zeal and Vigour that you have hitherto ſhewn, and that no Arts or ſiniſter Views may hinder you from compleating that glorious Work you have begun, exemplarily to puniſh the Robbers of their Country, of what Degree or Quality ſoever; that Trade may be reſtor'd, Credit reviv'd, and this Kingdom once more made happy and flouriſhing, is the Prayer of

Your humble Petitioners.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great-Britain in Parliament Aſſembled.

The humble Petition of the High Sheriff, Juſtices of the Peace and Gentlemen of the County of York.

SHEWETH,

THAT your Petitioners think themſelves oblig'd to return Thanks to this Honourable Houſe for their enquiry into the evil Practices and perfidious Management of the late South-Sea Directors, their Aiders and Abettors, and for the tender regard they have ſhew'd to our preſent Miſfortunes occaſion'd thereby, which are no leſs than the Decay of Trade, the loſs of Publick Credit, the ruin of innumerable Families, and the Diſhonour of the Britiſh Nation.

We are not Ignorant of the Difficulties which muſt ariſe from the Nature of ſuch an Enquiry, and that they are encreas'd by the Artifice of thoſe whoſe Intereſt it is (by any evil Methods) to ſecure themſelves from the Penalty of a greater Guilt.

We do therefore the more admire the Zeal and Reſolution of this Honourable Houſe, in the Meaſures they have already taken, and have the greater Confidence that they will preſerve the ſame Vigour and Firmneſs, till this whole Miſtery

ſtery of Iniquity be laid open; till the Robbers and Spoilers of the People be fully detected, and till they find out for them a Recompence equal to their Perfidy, and to the juſt Reſentments of their injur'd Country.

This is the Satisfaction which a miſerable People expect: This is what your Petitioners hope for, as a means to encourage Trade, Reſtore Publick Credit, ſupport the Honour of Parliaments and of the Britiſh Nation, and to render the Miſeries of the People the leſs inſupportable; and this alſo will make the Wiſdom and Juſtice of this preſent Parliament as memorable as the ſaid Subject of their Enquiry.

Your Petitioners therefore moſt humbly pray, that this Honourable Houſe will in their great Wiſdom take ſuch further Methods as they ſhall think moſt effectual for obtaining the Ends abovemention'd.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great-Britain in Parliament Aſſembled.

The Humble Petition of the Gentlemen, Principal Traders, and Inhabitants of the Ancient City and County of Coventry.

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

THAT altho' few of this populous City fell immediate Victims to the late Traiterous Directors of the South Sea, and their Accomplices, yet we all already Feel by them the Growing Miſery of an Impoveriſh'd People; while the want of Money hath ſo leſſen'd Credit, and ſunk our Trade, that many Artificers in our Woollen Manufacture can be no other ways Employ'd, than to become as Importunate, but humble Petitioners to this Honourable Houſe for Juſtice againſt the Infamous Authors of their Ruin, as their Starving Families are to them for Bread.

Your Petitioners are not only deeply affected with the deplorable Fate in particular of many of our Fellow Subjects betray'd from an uſeful Opulency, to an uſeleſs and burthenſome Poverty, nay to Deſpair and Death it ſelf; But look likewiſe with the utmoſt Concern upon the Shattered, Diſcontented, and in a manner Defenceleſs Condition of the Nation in General, ſhould any Revengeful Neighbour, take this Opportunity of our Weakneſs to Inſult us, and we cannot believe that thoſe Wicked Engineers, who have brought us into this State, deſign'd to undermine us for our Wealth

Wealth alone, but to blow up our happy Conſtitution too, ſince the Friendly ſignal of the Mine ſpringing, or the Stock Falling, was given to Foreigners, (by whoſe directions we hope your Wiſdom will diſcover) for their timely withdrawing from the Scene of Action, while the poor Confiding Britains were encouraged to keep their Poſts, and their Stock on, till they were Swallow'd up in the Breach.

That juſt Abhorrence which every honeſt Engliſhman ought to have againſt ſuch Deteſtable Treachery is the true motive of our humbly Petitioning this Honourable Houſe that as they have already ſhewn their Keen Reſentments againſt this dark Conſpiracy they would proceed with an unbyas'd Perſeverance (ſince Murthers and Rapes, and even Petty Villanies are puniſh'd by juſt Laws) to trace and lay open this Labyrinth of Iniquity to its Secret Head, and bring thoſe who ſhall be found Parricides and Traytors of our Country, (tho' never ſo great, never ſo ſwelled above the Reach of Common Juſtice) to Puniſhment Adequate to their Crimes; That they would as much as it's poſſible, diſgorge every Monſter of Change-Alley of his Prey, which might be ſome Relief to drooping Credit, and 'tis wiſh'd it might be extended to eaſe us of ſome of our heavy Debts and long gauling Taxes, that the People might once be ſatisfied of the difference between War and Peace, by theſe means Foreign Nations will know, and future Ages learn, that tho' Britain may be rob'd of it's Wealth, yet it can never be of it's Power in this Honourable Houſe to puniſh the Plunderers.

Your Petitioners muſt beg leave to acknowledge with Thanks and Joy how ſenſible they are of the repeated Endeavours this Honourable Houſe hath made for the return of one of the Fugitive Principal Actors in this Scene of Wickedneſs; and we cannot believe that either a ſmall State (without any apparent Advantage to it) will long Impede the Juſtice due to the whole Britiſh Nation, by retaining this one Offender, or that ſhould they unreaſonably do it, an Obliged Friend and Potent Ally (the Emperor of Germany) will refuſe (if ask'd) to uſe Threats, if Requeſts won't do, to ſatisfy our Gracious King and this Honourable Houſe in their juſt Demands.

To ſay more would be Queſtioning the Judgment as well as the Zeal, of this Honourable Houſe for our Good. So that we only humbly deſire they would Conſider we think

think them our Repreſenters, our Guardians, and in part, the Redreſſers of our Grievances; and that Tribunes (tho' of Inferiour Origine and Power) in a Government then Miſtreſs of the World, for Trifles to ſuch univerſal Rapine often brought their Haughtieſt Richeſt and moſt Popularly powerful Offenders to Puniſhments due to their Crimes, which that this Honourable Houſe may do in this our Day of Affliction for us is the hearty Prayer &c. of.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great-Britain in Parliament Aſſembled.

The humble Petition of the Mayor, Deputy Recorder, Juſtices of the Peace, and Grand Jury of the Borough of Colcheſter *at their General Quarter-Seſſions of the Peace Aſſembled.*

SHEWETH,

THAT your Petitioners, out of a deep Senſe of the Miſeries of many unhappy Families, deluded and undone by the unparalell'd Fraud and Corruption of the late Directors of the South-Sea Company and their ſecret Accomplices and the fatal Wound that has been given to publick Credit, cannot upon this melancholy Occaſion, forbear repreſenting to this Honourable Houſe their Concern, as well as Indignation, againſt the Infamous Betrayers of their Country.

And indeed at this Time, and in theſe Circumſtances, it would be criminal to be ſilent; and we ſhould not only be wanting to ourſelves, but to our Country, (once the Envy of Europe) ſhould we tamely ſit down under theſe inſupportable Grievances without the leaſt Complaint, when we ſenſibly perceive our Trade daily decay, our Manufactures altogether neglected, our Poor encreaſe; and what ought to be the Concern of every true Briton, our national Credit (which has hitherto been preſerv'd inviolable) ruin'd and deſpis'd; and at a Time when the Nation is in a Ferment, and the Cries and Clamours of an injur'd People from all Parts are loud for Juſtice.

Amidſt theſe unhappy Confuſions, we have the Satisfaction to ſee this Honourable Houſe ſtruggling with innumerable Difficulties, to aſſert and vindicate the Honour of their injur'd Country and with a becoming Zeal indefatigably encountring the Artifices of the Delinquents, and the odious Corruptions of their Friends; and as true Patriots (that Guilt of ſo black a Dye might not paſs with Impunity) ir-

ſiſti g

ſiſting (to their immortal Honour) on the Evidence of Mr. Knight to ſupply what has been artfully ſtifled.

We doubt not (ſince the Groans and Entreaties of the People are univerſal) but the ſame Zeal, Impartiality, and publick Spirit, with which this Honourable Houſe has hitherto acted, will ſtill (in ſpite of all Oppoſition) animate you to purſue the neceſſary Meaſures you have taken to bring the Offenders, however dignify'd or diſtinguiſh'd, to a Puniſhment (if poſſible) equal to their Guilt; and that you will (as in the late memorable Inſtance) ſtill cenſure, diſcourage, and puniſh ſuch as dare to countenance, ſcreen, or conceal ſuch impious Crimes.

Therefore your Petitioners moſt humbly pray, that this Honourable Houſe will be pleas'd to take ſuch further Meaſures as they in their great Wiſdom ſhall judge neceſſary, that innocent Sufferers may be reliev'd national Credit reſtored, Trade and Induſtry be encourag'd, and that the vile Authors of theſe Misfortunes may be puniſh'd with the moſt publick Ignominy.

And your Petitioners ſhall pray, &c.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great-Britain in Parliament Aſſembled

The Humble Petition of the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen and principal Inhabitants of the Borough of Newark upon Trent in the County of Nottingham, in the behalf of themſelves, fellow Subjects and Sufferers.

SHEWETH,

THAT the Duty we owe to our Calamitous and diſtreſs'd Country calls upon us to apply to you, the Protectors of its Welfare for Juſtice in Diſtreſs.

And ſure never was the Cry more Univerſal, or the Occaſion more Important; Great was our Rage, and juſt our Indignation, to ſee a whole Kingdom deluded, impoveriſh'd, and affronted by the Wicked Contrivances and Machinations of the late Infamous Directors of the South Sea.

To ſee our Trade which for many Years with great Difficulty we kept alive amidſt Innumerable Duties and Imports Expiring in the Triumphs of its mercileſs Deſtroyers: But great was our Joy (and we hope as well Grounded) when we found this Honourable Houſe unſheath the Sword of

Juſtice

Juſtice, and Vigorouſly engage in a Cauſe ſo worthy of its Power and Reſentment.

We acknowledge with all Imaginable gratitude, the Advances it hath hitherto made for the Reſcue of its Country. And here we muſt beg leave to obſerve with the greateſt Satisfaction the freſh Inſtance of its juſt Indignation towards a late unworthy Member for endeavouring to obſtruct its Enquiry, and the deſerv'd Honours paid to that true Patriot who with ſo noble a diſdain, rejected the Corrupt Application. But we cannot without betraying the Liberty of Britiſh Subjects, ſuppreſs the Concern and Apprehenſion we have entertain'd at the Scheme for remitting the ſeven Millions and a half due to the publick.

Far be it from the Wiſdom of this Honourable Houſe to alleviate the Misfortunes of a few, how deplorable and undeſerved ſoever at the Expence (and as we fear) with the unſupportable Damage of a whole People; rather let the Eſtates of the Delinquents be applyed to their relief which we humbly conceive would be as juſt as expedient and only turning a diverted Current into its proper Channel.

This we humbly beg may be taken into your wiſe Conſiderations and that you will perſevere in the Glorious Courſe you have begun in detecting condemning, and puniſhing all Offenders of what title and quality ſoever, in redreſſing our Injuries, reviving our Trade, and leſſening our Taxes, till you have throughly vindicated your own Honour and the Happineſs of our preſent Conſtitution.

And your Petitioners ſhall ever pray, &c.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great-Britain in Parliament Aſſembled.

The Humble Petition of the Junior Bailiff, the Aldermen Common Burgeſſes, Clergy, Gentlemen, and Freeholders, of, or near unto, the Borough of Eaſt-Retford in the County of Nottingham.

YOUR Petitioners being deeply affected with Concern for the Calamitous Condition to which they ſee this Nation Expos'd, by the pernicious and wicked Execution of the South-Sea Scheme, which has not only decay'd our Trade, impair'd our Credit, and drain'd away our Money, but

left us the Contempt of Foreigners, by the refuſal of Surrendring to Juſtice, a Malefactor Conſiderable only by his Crimes, whoſe wickedneſs can be exceeded by theirs only, who abetted his Practices, and dread his Delivery.

It is with great Satisfaction we behold your firm Zeal and unwearied Application, in the purſuit of theſe Villanies, and we hope to ſee this good Effect from it, that neither the Cunning ſhall be able to Elude your Juſtice, or the Potent protect themſelves from it.

And we moſt humbly beg your Perſeverence in theſe Meaſures, till the Offenders are brought to Condign Puniſhment, that the Juſtice and Honour of the Nation may be made as viſible to all the World, as our Misfortunes are, and that by your Prudence and Conduct, particular Property and Intereſt, may be ſo aſcertain'd and ſettled, and ſuch Reſtitution made to the unhappy Sufferers, as (we doubt not) will be conſiſtent with Juſtice to the whole, that ſo this Nation may be reſtor'd to a Flouriſhing Condition, and become once again the general reſort of Credit for all Europe; All which is moſt humbly ſubmitted to your Wiſdoms.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great-Britain in Parliament aſſembled.

The humble Petition of the Mayor, Bayliffs and Burgeſſes of the Borough of Newcaſtle Under-Lyne in the County of Stafford.

SHEWETH,

THAT your Petitioners being under a deep Senſe of the preſent Miſery, Ruin, and Confuſion which the villainous and deteſtable Practices of the Directors of the South Sea, their powerful Aiders and Abettors, have brought upon this once happy and flouriſhing Nation. Beg Leave to return our moſt grateful Acknowledgments to this Honourable Houſe, for the great Zeal and indefatigable Induſtry which they have ſhewn for the Good of their Country, by their ſtrenuous Endeavours to detect ſuch unſatiable Avarice, ſuch unparallel'd Treachery, ſuch myſterious Iniquity!

When we were expecting to receive Seven Millions and an Half towards eaſing our burthenſome Load of publick Debt,

Debt, and to ſee our decaying Trade happily extended, by a glorious Peace, the natural Conſequences of the great Succeſs of his Majeſty's Arms abroad; We were aſtoniſh'd to hear, that the Company which had contracted with us was become almoſt Bankrupt and unable to pay, that our Debts were Increaſing, our Trade Languiſhing, our Gold and Silver daily Exporting, our Credit Expiring, and that ſome Securities to our Trade gain'd by a Former expenſive War, were in Danger of being loſt.

Under theſe deplorable Circumſtances, we have the Satiſfaction and Comfort, to ſee this Honourable Houſe, with a true Publick Spirit, ſtrugling to extricate us from theſe Difficulties, and therefore we entirely depend upon their Care, Wiſdom, and Integtity, to Redreſs all our Grievances, and Retrieve all our Misfortunes, by ſuch Meaſures as ſhall appear to them the moſt Proper and Conducive to our Welfare, and we humbly Pray that this Honourable Houſe will ſteadily perſevere to make all the Authors of our Calamities, how great ſoever, (Notwithſtanding the Power and Artifice of thoſe who endeavour to Screen them) an exemplary Sacrifice to the loud Cries, and juſt Expectation of a deluded injur'd People.

And your Petitioners ſhall ever Pray, &c.

Given under the Common Seal of our ſaid Borough, the Third Day of June, in the Seventh Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George, over Great-Britain, &c. Anno Dom. 1721.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great-Britain in Parliament aſſembled.

The Petition of the Gentlemen of the Grand Inqueſt, Juſtices of the Peace, and Freeholders of the County of Bucks, aſſembled at their General Quarter-Seſſions at Ailsbury.

Humbly Sheweth,

THAT your Petitioners having ſeen their Country (which about one Year ſince was in as flouriſhing a Condition as poſſible, eſpecially in reſpect of Trade, Manufactures, and the publick Credit) reduc'd, as to all thoſe Particulars, in a little more than half that time, to the loweſt Degree of Miſery and Diſtreſs, were ready to ſink under the utmoſt Deſpair of any Redreſs, till they heard that the Re-

preſentatives of the Commons of Great-Britain had undertaken to enquire into the Cauſes of ſo general and great a Calamity; and not only to puniſh the guilty Authors and Inſtruments, their Abetters and Patrons, but alſo to make ſome Reparation to the more immediate Sufferers, out of the immenſe Eſtates which had been gain'd by a Degree of Avarice, Fraud and Corruption, never before heard of.

This has reviv'd our Hopes of ſeeing, in Proceſs of Time, the Nation again Happy and Flouriſhing if by the Bleſſing of God on your paſt and future Endeavours, it ſhall, as there is Reaſon to believe it will, be deliver'd from the In-Influence and Power of all thoſe who have either brought about or countenanc'd ſo univerſal a Deſtruction, when it was their Duty, and in their Power, to have prevented it.

And therefore at the ſame Time we return this Honourable Houſe our moſt cordial Thanks and never failing Gratitude, for the Indefatigable Induſtry, Prudent Zeal, Reſolution and Love of your Country, which you have ſhewn on this Occaſion: We humbly beg Leave to implore that you would be pleas'd to continue your Enquiries, till for your own and the Kingdom's Satisfaction, you have ſeen if it was poſſible that ſo great and powerful a Nation as this, cou'dbe ſo near otherthrown, by the ſole Practices of a few Miſcreants of mean Families and broken Fortunes, without the Fault or groſs Neglect of Perſons of much greater Conſequence in the Government.

We likewiſe beg Leave to lay before you, with the moſt perfect Submiſſion, our humble Opinion, That this unhappy Kingdom, which muſt long continue under ſo heavy a Load of Taxes (tho' the Money agreed to be paid by the South-Sea Company ſhould be anſwer'd to the Parliament) will be under a yet greater Diſappointment, if you ſhall let go the only Conſideration or Inducement, for which this Scheme, that has prov'd ſo deſtructive, was enter'd into; and that nothing can effectually reſtore and ſupport the Publick Credit, unleſs by your Endeavours the Expences of the Government are brought not to exceed in each Year the Moneys given by Parliament for the Service of ſuch Year.

Laſtly,

Laſtly, we muſt earneſtly pray, That this Houſe will be pleas'd to continue its Application to the perfecting the great and good Work ſo happily began, notwithſtanding any Diſcouragements from the Artifices or Power of the Guilty, or of ſuch as ſhall unaccountably affect and endeavour to ſupport them.

FINIS.

Lastly, we most earnestly pray, That this Work will be pleas'd to continue its Application to the perfecting the Peace and good Work so happily begun, notwithstanding Difficulties and Impediments from the Artifices or Power of this Party, or plead as shall unaccountably affect and endeavour to frustrate them.